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Approved For Release 2003/05/14 : CIA-RDP78B0571A000600020051-6

WFIC D-278-69

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT: Request for Approval for the Extension of a Research & Development Contract for the Development of the Dry Photographic Process by [redacted] From [redacted] FE-1970 Funds

1. This memorandum requests approval to commit funds for the extension of a Research and Development contract. The specific request is contained in Paragraph 7.

2. In 1964, the [redacted] demonstrated a photo sensitive material which exhibited properties long sought after for reproducing imagery for the photo interpretation process. This material was in the early research stage; however, it displayed a high prospect of pay-off in providing high quality photo duplication material which could be dry processed with heat instead of using chemicals and sophisticated laboratory equipment. The new photo duplicating material had an additional advantage in that it used only 60% as much silver as conventional materials. In subsequent years, WFIC and [redacted] have participated in funding the development of dry silver materials in order to direct research toward meeting our highly specialized goals. The dry silver development program has proceeded in five separate but related areas: film, paper, positive acting film, dry diazo film and paper, and processors for both sheet film and paper.

3. The work during the proposed FE-1970 extension of the dry silver development program will continue at various levels in each of the five areas. A detailed description of the proposed work is contained in the attached proposal. A brief description follows:

a. Dry Silver Film - Work under this task has already produced a usable material. Additional work is required to improve the film's stability, speed, and quality to the level attained by the best conventional photographic films. This task will again be funded [redacted] The FE-1970 funding will be approximately [redacted]

b. Dry Silver Paper - This material has reached a usable level of development but further refinements are required in contrast and archival (shelf storage) quality. FE-1970 funding will be [redacted]

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
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c. Dry Silver Positive Acting Film - Normal photographic reproduction of a film positive is a two-step process involving the initial preparation of a negative, i.e., positive-to-negative-to-positive. The goal of this task is to produce a single-step (positive-to-positive) film material, thereby reducing the obvious cost and resolution losses inherent in the multiple step process. FY-1970 funding will be [redacted] with additional funds possibly required in FY-1971 and FY-1972.

d. Dry Diase Film and Paper - Most of the goals in this task have been met. No additional Government funding is required. This material will be available in quantity in the near future.

e. Sheet Film and Paper Processors - Although roll film processors have been developed and are in use, more development work is needed on processors to accommodate cut, or sheet, film and paper since sheet processors have different characteristics than roll film processors. Proposed FY-1970 work under this task is to develop two prototype sheet processing systems, one for 12 inch wide material and one for 40 inch wide material. The FY-1970 funding required will be [redacted]

f. Due to the overall success of the dry silver program, additional requirements and uses for the material have been established. In order to meet these requirements, additional new processing equipment will have to be developed; therefore, it is anticipated that additional FY-1970 funding may be requested under individual contracts to support these efforts. It is possible that these items of equipment may be contracted to companies other than [redacted]

4. The [redacted] has submitted a proposal for the continuation of this research and development program through FY-1970, the current FY-1969 contract runs through October 31, 1969. [redacted] is providing [redacted] in FY-1970 for the dry silver film task and MPIC desires to fund [redacted] during FY-1970 to cover the development of the paper, the positive acting film, and the sheet processors tasks. The technical risk involved in achieving the goals for this development contract is low.

5. This project has been fully coordinated within the intelligence community through INRMD. The financial support of the dry silver film task is an excellent example of the results of this coordination. In addition, continuing coordination is maintained with other Army, Navy, Air Force and Agency components having a known interest in dry silver projects.

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7. It is requested that approval be granted to negotiate a contract
with the [redacted] at a cost not to exceed
[redacted]

ARTHUR C. LUNDHAL

Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachment:
Proposal

APPROVAL:

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

Distribution:

Orig - NPIC/TSSG/SCAPS (After approval)

1 - DDI

2 - NPIC/ODIR

2 - NPIC/TSSG

1 - NPIC/TSSG/RED

NPIC/TSSG/RED/SDB/[redacted] (20 Oct 69)

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FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)